

May 25, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

R5 visited our school this year and definitely had a positive impact on our student body. Mike's energy and positive attitude really grabbed our students' attention, and his message kept their attention. Teenagers today deal with many challenging issues and some turn to negative influences to cope with their problems instead of finding positive solutions. It is important for teens to know that there are ways to deal with their problems other than turning to drugs, alcohol or other self-deprecating behaviors.

Mike also reinforced for our student body the importance of choosing our words carefully. Hurting others to mask an individual's pain never stops the hurt. Our students left the assembly with wide eyes and open hearts. The 60 minutes our student spent with Mike were well worth it. Although I value the learning that occurs in the classroom, I also see the need for learning that doesn't involve an algebraic equation, a prepositional phrase, or a chemical reaction. If one student finds a positive outlet for his/her problems; or if one student stands up to someone putting another student down, then this was definitely a valuable learning lesson.

Thank you Mike for enlightening our students and our staff at Newell-Fonda High School. Keep up the good work and keep spreading your message!

Sincerely,

Alynn Coppock
High School Principal